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This Week in Wabash



Hello, Wabash,

Happy Monday. I hope your week is off to a great start. We certainly had some wild storms this weekend. I woke up Saturday morning and the sky was nearly pitch black. A major storm was rolling in, so we quickly grabbed as many of our plants off the porch as could. The winds were extremely violent and we were worried about their survival for good reason. Sadly, the stems of our sunflowers snapped. We tried to construct a splint for them. I'm not very confident it will work, but it didn't cost anything to try.

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, I wanted to call your attention to a [story that was in last Wednesday's paper](#).

A few weeks ago, a former resident of North Manchester, Benjamin Barefoot, called and emailed me to let me know about a special event he was planning.

It seems that exactly eight years before – on July 15, 2014 – he was involved in a semi-truck vs. bicycle accident on Indiana 114. The accident eventually led him to lose one of his legs. He now uses a prosthesis.

He told me his idea was to return to the scene of the accident and finish the same route he had taken that day exactly eight years before on his bicycle. This time, though, he would have several people assisting him. He wanted to know if I would be interested in taking photos and writing a story.

Of course, I was. But, I had to do some research first. I started by contacting the Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL), which has an extensive record of archives of the Wabash Plain Dealer. They were eventually able to locate the original police report which ran in the newspaper eight years ago.

After that, I contacted the North Manchester Police Department (NMPD), which referred me to the Wabash County Sheriff's Department (WCSD). The WCSD was

able to also provide me with the original accident report.

Then, on the morning of Friday, July 15, I met Benjamin and his team in front of Scout Hall at Warvel Park in North Manchester. I asked a few questions, took a few photos and then, they were off. I caught up with them a bit later as they were making their way down the road and took some action photos, too.



I'm very proud of the story and photos, and I hope you'll take the time to check them out.

Well, that's all I have for you today. Have a great rest of your week.

Best,
Rob



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